The Committee of Public Morals in making their annual Report to the Society would remark. that whilst in some small portions of our County there has been a decided improvement in morals, yet, that the great mass of the community seems to be but little improved. There has not indeed been any very outrageous popular tumult as in preceeding years — even though subjects have been agitated that formerly produced much commotion, — but we cannot assign as the cause any improvment in public Morals — it seems to be rather the lethargy that always follows fierce excitement. Elements are no doubt at work within us that will soon test the stability of our free institutions. We are daily receiving in our country the ~~filth & scum~~ worthless population of Europe that is ripe for any excitement. Accustomed at home to the restraints of ~~[illegible]~~ bristling bayonetts & severe penal laws, they float into this sea of democracy with the disposition to meet any & every breeze, conscious that no storm can blow them int a worse port than that from whence they sailed. Of course they are not disposed to keep the peace, nor to become great friends of public morals. Their habits & vices are generally of the worst description.

This class is found to be fearfully predominant in those abolition excitements that have so much agitated the social system. by which they are enabled to gratify their hatred of our institutions, our morality & religion – The agitation of the abolition question by itinerant Agents, has doubtless called into action the foul Spirit of misrule which has exerted a most noxious influence upon the public morals. And this agitation is ~~doubtless~~ evidently the result of licentiousness of Speech destructive of all freedom of speech. These misguided men have supposed that whilst they were goading the South to perfect madness, they have left the North in perfect security. But this is not, & cannot be the case. The storm will return with redoubled fury upon our own heads. Past experience has taught us that ~~the~~ excesses of this kind do not readily subside. The mob that was yesterday excited to deeds of violence for some supposed good – will today turn upon its leaders, or upon the best men in the community. In either case the public morals must suffer. The prince of darkness will ride upon the Storm, bearing down in one wild moment the established institutions of a century.

Respecting the cause of temperance your Committee would Report from an examination of 1

~~Your committee would not speak of the cause of temperance~~. Documents from different parts of the world ~~amply testify~~ that this cause is gaining ground, and it is hoped that eventually, the use of ardent spirits as a beverage, will be known only upon the pages of history. When the people as a body began to see the evils resulting from intemperance, they perceived at once the necessity of taking measures for its suppression. Societies were formed - Lectures delivered - inteligence freely circulated through the community and every possible means ~~are~~ was used to save the drunkard, reclaim the tipler - and thus confer a blessing upon mankind. Then it was deemed ~~only~~ necessary only to sign a pledge to refrain from the use of ardent spirits. Wine cider & beer to be used at the discretion of each individual. This plan has been successful for years, effecting the desired object, in most cases - However after having had ~~the~~ experience ~~of years~~ - it was found, that measures more efficient were necessary in order fully to accomplish the desired end - They found that an appetite once formed for ~~liquor~~ ardent spirits being deprived of its favorite drink, it would seek gratification in a kindred kind. It has ~~has~~ been ascertained, that in many places, more money is yearly expended for Wine and beer - than what had ever been spent, in the same length of time for ardent spirits - Previous to the establishment of Tem. Societies, but little wine was manufactured in the U states - but since this Society has gone ~~went~~ into operation, they have increased greatly ~~professors~~ Temperance houses have been opened in all parts of the land, where Wine, cider and beer are kept - From Many ~~those~~ ~~such~~ houses professedly of this character, men, may be seen, ~~the professedly temperate~~ - reeling through the

Streets to the Shame of the Temperance cause — Under present circumstan
who can expect, that a society, adopting the old pledge can long
prosper? We would not say, that societies that formerly adopted the
old pledge have done no good — doubtless it was the best step that
could have been taken — We cannot expect that a man can
pass from degradation to perfection in a moment — there must be
intermediate steps — The public mind was not prepared for the
reception ~~the new~~ of a pledge reading — "total abstinence". The old pledge
has accomplished great things — and the people are now prepared
to take a step in advance — This in many places has been done,
and hundreds are coming to — and taking an active part
in the temperance field — that upon the old principal stood aloof
from the cause — This advance step, it is true, in many instances,
is attended with disastrous consequences — many are withdrawing
from the work, and are returning to their cups — but they are
retracting from that which they had only disgraced —

It is not our object at present to discuss the merits of the question
concerning the matter in dispute — it is only to exhibit — in short
the ~~th~~ public mind with regard to it — We do not say that a majori
of the inhabitants of the U. States have, or will at once — adopt the
abstinence pledge — but we do say the leading men in every
State — and civilised Nation on the Globe from whom reports
have been received — are substantially in favour of "Tee-totalism"
During the infancy of the U. States Temperance Society, few
thought of acting with reference to any, but our own people —
As little did they think of changing their pledge —
Active and efficient measures were put into operation —.

The monster Intemperance was exposed — his deeds of infamy were revealed — and the people were led to see, that they were in bondage — Glorious triumphs were achieved — and all fondly ~~hoped~~ anticipated that the work would soon be accomplished — Thousands rallied to her standard; aiming at immediate expulsion (— Fathers had long mourned over dissipated sons, sons over drunken Fathers Daughters over wreckless Mothers — and whole families in beggary — with bodies emaciated with hunger and nakedness, had looked up to fiends in human shape — for that support, that the God of of nature was freely bestowing upon others — Government had long supported; a band of drunkards — too poor to support themselves — vagabonds in the world — and outcasts of society —)

Such was found to be the state of society in general, at the commencement of the temperance reform — and such were the inducements to immediate action — Agents were sent forth sounding the alarm — that an enemy was in the land — sapping the foundation of government, of society and individual interest — Societies were formed, and beneficial results immediately followed —

Those who did not soon destroy their appetite for strong drink found a substitute in wine — Cider or beer —

This was felt to be a serious evil throughout the land Many withdrew from our connection — and others ~~with [illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ sat down in silence — and mourned over the depravity of Man — (waiting for the moving of the waters)

In most places where societies were early formed the cause had made but little progress for months, and in some places for years – until a fresh impulse was given by the introduction of the new pledge — In many places however, this pledge was at once adopted – where this was the case – they have been more successful in maintaining their ground —

(These specimens of punctuality and perseverance were regarded by the higher order of societies – as so many indications, that a more general and thorough reform was necessary — and that immediately – The N York State Tem. Soc. as a body – was the first to act upon the subject – At one of their anniversaries a resolution was offered, to adopt the total abstinence pledge To this there was much opposition – Protracted and interesting debates ensued — The proposed pledge was finally adopted, and it gave an onward impulse to the cause throughout the state – This society now stood a bright example to the world, of industry and perseverance – Many considered it a hazardous step – others predicted its downfall – while not a few ~~more considerate in their views~~ – regarded it as a glorious ~~blessed~~ epoch ~~era~~ in the cause of Temperance —

At the temperance convention held at Saratoga N York the officers of the U. states society – determined to enlarge their plans of operation – and to do this more effectually – they adopted the name of the "American Temperance Union" —

The first anniversary of said Union was held in N. York – Chatham Street Chapel Tuesday May 9th – The report was read which represented the cause as flourishing —

It was then resolved to publish a "Temperance Journal" a speci-men of which had been published and ~~7000 copies~~ it has now 7000 subscribers ~~have been~~ it is distributed in various of the country ~~sent from all parts of the Union~~ — From the report we have the following interesting ~~following~~ items — The N York state temperance society, ~~for~~ within the past year ~~has~~ published 13.000.000 pages of Temperance documents — The consumption of ardent spirits in the U. States within the past year has decreased one half — foreign importation one half — home manufacture three fourths — In the state of N. York not more than 200 out of 1,149 distilleries are now in operation — 15.000 inebriates reformed — The home manufacture of of wine has greatly increased — the quantity thus made is ten times greater than the quantity imported —

?

The quantity of grain destroyed by the distilleries the past year was sufficient to have supplied the whole population (a with bread for the year — 18 the whole population of N.Y. Notwithstanding so much remains to be done — the cause of temperance has (it is supposed) — saved to our country the past year, at least $50.000.000 — Among the greatest obstacles to the cause was the apathy of christians — and especially of christian Ministers — of the latter, however nine tenths are now the decided friends of temperance — The influence of the one tenth is (second) on the side of the opposition — From all parts of the state of N York, documents have been received of the most encouraging kind with one exception — The City of Rochester is still in a deplorable condition — Intemperance for the past year has been gaining ground — but active measures are now in operation for its suppression —

Maſsachusetts, at present, presents an encouraging aspect. At the last annual meeting it was reported, that in ~~four~~ six counties out of fourteen — no licenses for the sale of ardent spirits ~~was~~ were granted — The following resolution was paſsed "that in no view of the great subject of temperance — are we so much encouraged to effect its final triumph — as in our efforts to train ~~the~~ up the young in Total abstinence, from all that can intoxicate — "The City of Boston is now far behind the country in this course —— The expediency of calling a N England Convention of the friends of temperance is under consideration — "This is urged from the fact, that in many parts, the cause has languished for the last two years — and by many alchoholic drinks have been ~~substituted~~ used — in every shape, but that of ardent spirits — Laws for the expulsion of alcohol from the Factories of N England are rigidly enforced — "The teetotal principle is fast gaining ground, and the people are begining to ~~learn~~ think — that this is the only sure — and speedy method, of banishing intemperance from the land — "From Connecticut we have little information — The Tolland Co Society at their last Meeting discuſsed the subject of Total abstinence It must be said, that even in the land of the Puritans, the abandonment of cider goes hard — "~~We would not~~. however ~~question the good sense of the people here~~"

"Vermont — from this state we have no important — intelligence except. from the superintendance of Factories — From these alchohol is expelled —

Main Temperance Union was formed upon Tee-total principles — This originated from an attempt — to reorganize the state temperance Soc. ~~upon correct principles~~ — The majority of the State Society were in favour of taking higher ground — but the minority would not be bound by any action of the majority in changing the pledge — consequently a new society was formed

The annual Meeting of the Ohio State Temperance Society was held in Columbus Jan. 16th — They report that the amount of direct effort — seems to have diminished the past year — but the principle of ~~T~~ total abstinence has evidently gained ground — Virginia. At their last meeting Feb 28th, the tee-total question was agitated — and laid upon table for ~~fo~~ consideration — twenty societies had reported during the year — and with the exception of two — they were all in favour of abandoning the use of all that can intoxicate —

~~Throughout the western states intemperance prevails extensively — Much remains to be done — yet compared with 1812, and 15~~ ~~it is~~ ~~the work is half accomplished — A late resident of the west — has given us a specimen of the intemperance of 1812 — Says he "The western towns at that day were besotted with intemperance." He witnessed a collection of forty men on a public square — (and the Marshal of the state of Ohio was with them) with their heads tied up, dancing around a tub of whiskey, and singing "Here's is a good fellow for Jefferson" &c — The most of this clan called — the "blood hound company" died a wretched death — They administered the sacred ordinance (the sacrament) with whiskey — and soon a number of them died~~

~~(he concludes by saying, that the cause of temperance has advanced far beyond my expectations, and I trust that the next generation will not see a drunkard —~~

In All 2700 have signed the total abstinence pledge — and many have said that they owe it to the temperance society that they are not drunkards — The German ministers say that they can do little, unless the influence of temperance societies goes before them — In St Louis 117 have signed the Teetotal pledge — In Michigan, a State abstinence society from all that can intoxicate has been formed and efficient measures are in operation to forward the cause — From the southern and middle states similar information has been received — Much has been done, but a great work yet remains to be accomplished — The monster has been roused, and he fights (manfully) hard for his cause — ~~(Physicians have reported the spontaneous combustion of 19 inebriated persons — and strange as it may appear — all except three were females — the greater part of each was consumed —~~

Canadas — since the settlement of the Canadas little has been done in the cause of temperance, ~~by civilised man — intemperance has held a sway unopposed by united public movement~~, until within a short time — Scenes too revolting to allow of a description are frequently occurring — A flourishing Society is now in existence in Montreal —

American Seamen —

It is reported that there are twelve hundred ships now sailing under American colours.

in which no alcohol is drunk — Temperance ~~It~~ has done (says one) more than any other cause, to command for our commercial navy the respect of the world — At the same time nothing has been done among Brittish seamen — American ship-?
ping within a few years has increased in the proportion, of 12½ per cent per annum, while the Brittish shipping has increased only 1½ per cent per an — Societies have been established at most of the American sea ports — Sea captains have many of them become bold champions in the cause — and those that dwell on the continents have learned by experience that the hardy ~~[illegible]~~ sons of Neptune are capable of improvement — ~~[illegible]~~ and of becoming wise and good men —

Great Brittain — Here the state of society with regard to temperance is deplorable — True, it has powerful advocates and able defenders — but the great mass of ~~the~~ the people are unconscious of that flood of iniquity, that has overspread the land — unconscious that four fifths of the distress and pauperism among them — is occasioned by alchohol — Says Dr Humphrey — there are doubtless more than 5 or ~~[illegible]~~ clergymen in London, and not more than thirty of them were on the plat form at the Anniversary — Wherever he traveled, wine was offered him after preaching in all the vestries — The same ~~material~~ beverage was generally found upon the tables of the clergy wherever he dined — and after supper ~~just~~ before worship in the family, wine must be presented — In Scotland not more than one sixth of the clergy are reported as belonging to any temperance society — Few of the most popular preachers, in

Edinburg and Glasgow are acknowledged temperance men — Those of them whose writings we most admire are not members of a Tem. Soc. — The proportion of occasional drinkers is so great in one Presbytery — that they cannot be disciplined — At the table of a certain Clergyman, he found every ones tumbler ready for a libation, to wash down the fine goose berries — "but for once (says he) "by the aid of a temperance brother — they threw so much cold water upon the whisky — that no one could muster toddy courage enough to taste it — A little brandy was substituted to prevent any secret mischief — that the goose berries might produce" In their cities the most splendid business establishments are devoted to the traffic of alcohol in some shape — On every side you can see in golden letters — Spirits — wine — and ale &c *Licensed* to be *drunk* ~~be~~ on the premises — (says Dr H. ~~he~~) "thinks I to myself what does this mean? — I think I comprehend it — *Customers* licensed to be *drunk* on the premises — He rarely found the low herd of tiplers at Hotels — but well dressed gentlemen — and what was more strange — they did not become highly excited — but *rather* sleepy — Sometimes an individual would set down alone, over his toddy — "and ~~(says he)~~ inspite of all my moralising it was amusing — to see him dip out the steaming beverage into his glass — and when he had sipped it down — dip again and again — sitting in silence with his eyes half closed — like some Hindoo devotee — and doubtless absorbed in equally sublime and profitable contemplations — In Great Britain they offer none but the total abstinance pledge — In some places unleſs the poor labourer will take a portion of his wages in liquor, he cannot get employment — It is estimated that there is a grogshop to every 20 families in the Kingdom — 4.000.000 families and 200.000 gin shops — Revd Mr Edgar from Ireland was received at the anniversary with cheers — He said he came from the land of whisky, of misery, and of crime — the puzzle of puzzles — and no man understood it — and no wonder, for the whole nation was drunk — last year they swallowed fourteen million gallon of spirits — (~~says he~~) "when intemperance was sweeping off the inhabitants of America the cry was raised be moderate — but the plague went on — Then the word was abstain — At that word the hemisphere brightened — Erin scotland and England listened to the sound — (and the whole earth became one blaze of glory") — Alcohol occasions an annual loss to Ireland 6.500.000.L — Great efforts are now making to banish it ~~at~~ from the land. Sweden 3.000,000 inhabitants — and 170.000 distilleries — 40.000.000 Gall consumed yearly — 14 Gall to every man woman and child — at an expense of fourteen million and one half sterling — The people are always sipping, but never drunk — Much is now doing to check the evil — — In France the work of reform has but just commenced In Spain the motto is — ~~that~~ drinking cold water, neither makes a man sick — nor indebt, nor his wife a widow — In Bombay a very great interest~~ed~~ is now excited in the temperance cause — many socs have been formed — They have leavened the whole ~~so~~ body of the people — A great temce reformation is going on in Wales — 3000 have signed the Teetotal pledge — In Finland the effects of drinking are ~~a~~ horrible among all classes — In Russia much is doing — Few publications in these languages — — In North and south Africa the cause is gaining many friends and in the Islands of the Pacific — ~~(Although we trust it has been advanced to convince every sober, reflecting mind, that nothing short of total abstinence from all that can intoxicate will save the drunkard and the earth from ruin — where are the advocates of truth — that their voices are not more frequently heard in the din of battle between truth and error —~~

Having said what time will permit concerning the cause of temperance — we will notice for a moment the opium trade carried on between India and China, on this subject nothing has been done until within a short time. The use of opium is almost universal throughout the empire — and is increasing at the rate of 25 pr cent pr annum. The amount imported into China the past year was not much less than $19.230.769

The influence of opium upon the human system differs from alcohol only in one respect — that is — it binds ~~him~~ its victim in chains ten times as strong, and holds him ~~its wretched~~ ~~victim~~ with a deadly grasp — There is scarcely a case of ~~[illegible]~~ reformation known ~~escape from it when once it has [illegible]~~ —

The operation of opium on this account is more deadly by many degrees — than its tyrannical rival —

But few have publicly espoused the cause, with determination not to cease, until this body and soul destroying traffic is banished from the Land —